

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A C~~compositions intended to be applied for application to surfaces of freshly poured mortar and/or concrete mixes, before the start of setting, in order to prevent the evaporation of water needed for them to set and harden, comprising an aqueous emulsions, ~~of~~wherein the discontinuous phase comprises:

- a) at least one petroleum-derived or synthetic paraffin wax containing saturated aliphatic hydrocarbons, unsaturated aliphatic hydrocarbons or mixtures thereof, wherein the aliphatic hydrocarbons are of general formulae C_nH_{2n+2} and C_nH_{2n} for which n is at least equal to 30 and the melting point of which is between 40°C and 75°C , ~~combined with~~and

- b) at least one linear or cyclic hydrocarbon oil, of aliphatic or naphthenic origin, of general formulae C_nH_{2n+2} and C_nH_{2n} for which n is less than 30, which is a liquid at room temperature; or

- c) at least one oil formed from at least one ester resulting from the condensation reaction between a saturated and/or unsaturated fatty acid and a monohydric, dihydric or trihydric alcohol; or

d) a combination of (b) and (c).

2. (Currently amended) The compositions as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the paraffin wax is chosen from the group consisting of alkanes, alkenes, or mixtures thereof, which are petroleum-derived or synthetic saturated of general formulae C_nH_{2n+2} and C_nH_{2n} in which n is between $30 \leq n \leq 120$.

3. (Currently amended) The compositions as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the paraffin wax has a melting point between 50°C and 70°C.
4. (Currently amended) The compositions as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the paraffin wax has a density of between 0.85 and 0.95.
5. (Currently amended) The compositions as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the hydrocarbon oil is of general formulae C_nH_{2n+2} and C_nH_{2n} in which n preferably takes a value of is between 10 and 25.
6. (Currently amended) The compositions as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the hydrocarbon oil is chosen from those having a kinematic viscosity of between 5 and 500 mm²/s.
7. (Currently amended) The compositions as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the hydrocarbon oil is chosen from those having a density of between 0.83 and 0.97.
8. (Currently amended) The compositions as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the fatty acids used in the preparation of the oil formed from at least one ester are chosen from the group of C₈ to C₂₄ fatty acids.
9. (Currently amended) The compositions as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the fatty acids are chosen from the group consisting of C₈ to C₂₄ fatty acids.

10. (Currently amended) The compositions as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the monohydric, dihydric or trihydric alcohols used in the preparation of the oil formed from at least one ester are chosen from the group consisting of C₂ to C₂₀ alkanols and alkenols.

11. (Currently amended) The compositions as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the monohydric alcohol is chosen from the group consisting of ethanol, propanol, butanol, pentanol, stearic alcohol and oleic alcohol; the dihydric alcohol is chosen from the group consisting of propanediol, butanediol, pentanediol, hexanediol, heptanediol, octanediol, nonanediol, decanediol, undecanediol and dodecanediol and other dihydroxyalkanes or alkenes; and the trihydric alcohol is chosen from the group consisting of glycerol, butanetriol, pentanetriol, hexanetriol, heptanetriol, octanetriol, nonanetriol, decanetriol, undecanetriol and dodecanetriol and other trihydroxyalkanes or alkenes.

12. (Currently amended) The compositions as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that:

- component (a), which is formed from at least one paraffin wax, is present in said compositions in an amount of 2% to 90% by weight;
- component (b), which is formed from at least one hydrocarbon oil, is present in said compositions in an amount of 5% to 90% by weight;
- component (c), which is formed from at least one oil composed of at least one ester, is present in said compositions in an amount of 5% to 90% by weight; and
- water: a sufficient quantity to 100% by weight.

13. (Currently amended) The compositions as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the

weight ratio of the at least one hydrocarbon oil, the at least one oil composed of at least one ester and of the paraffin wax that are present is at least 0.25.

14. (Currently amended) The compositions as claimed in claim 13, characterized in that ~~said~~ the compositions, in emulsion form, ~~have~~has a dry matter content of between 10% by weight and 60% by weight.

15. (Currently amended) A method of preparing the compositions as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising the successive steps of introducing the various components into a preparation region subjected to stirring, the contents of which may be heated or cooled, the steps comprising:

i) introducing water, needed to create the emulsion, optionally followed by the introduction of an emulsifier into said preparation region, with vigorous stirring for the time needed to obtain a homogeneous medium;

ii) introducing the oils of component (b), component (c), or a combination of component (b) and component (c) to form a second mixture, which is subjected to vigorous stirring for the time needed to obtain a first emulsion;

iii) introducing the paraffin wax into the first emulsion with gentle stirring maintained for the time needed to form a second emulsion.

16. (Currently amended) ~~The application of the compositions as defined in claim 14~~ A method for the protection of freshly poured mortar and/or concrete surfaces from water evaporation comprising by spraying the composition as defined in claim 14 ~~said compositions as~~

an aqueous emulsions onto said surfaces with a useful weight deposited per unit area of between 50 g/m² and 150 g/m² in order to achieve complete protection.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein said paraffin wax is added in the form of a powder, and prior to the introduction of the paraffin wax, the first emulsion is preheated to a temperature sufficient to cause the wax to melt.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein said paraffin wax is in the form of an aqueous emulsion and is added to the first emulsion at room temperature.

19. (Previously presented) The compositions as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the weight ratio of the at least one hydrocarbon oil, the at least one oil composed of at least one ester and of the paraffin wax that are present is from 0.64 to 0.9.